

SIGN ON...

CA. Fish & Game/polit & war Dept.

A COUPLE OF COMMENTS AGO, I TALKED A LITTLE ABOUT THE MAN WHO HAD THE LEOPARD PELT THAT HAD BEEN IN HIS FAMILY'S POSSESSION FOR OVER 75 YEARS, AND HE WANTED TO SELL IT. OF COURSE, CALIFORNIA'S FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT GOT WIND OF IT, AND IN MY OPINION, WENT AFTER THE GENTLEMAN IN THE WRONG WAY. FIRST OFF, WE'RE NOT LOOKING AT SOME LOW-LIFE POACHER HERE. THE GENTLEMAN AND HIS WIFE HAVE YEARS OF GOOD, CONSTRUCTIVE, CARING WORK ALL OVER THE WORLD, HELPING PEOPLE IN TERRIBLE CONDITIONS, AND AT TIMES, IN LIFE-THREATENING SITUATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE IN THE TIMES-STARBOARD, THE PELT CAME FROM AN ANIMAL THAT HAD DIED IN A POND WHEN IT BECAME STRANDED, SO IT WAS NOT ILLEGALLY OBTAINED.

GETTING BACK TO CALIFORNIA'S FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT. ONCE, MANY YEARS AGO, A WOMAN CUSTOMER BROUGHT SOME ELK MEAT INTO MY BUTCHER SHOP TO BE GROUND. I KNEW IT WAS ILLEGAL, OF COURSE, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ELK SEASON THEN, AND I HAD HEARD ABOUT SOME POACHING GOING ON IN THE REDWOOD PARK AREA NORTH OF ORICK. THE LADY WHO BROUGHT IN THE ELK MEAT WAS FROM AN ABUSIVE FAMILY AND SHE HAD NO CHOICE - BRING IT IN OR GET BEATEN BY THE HUSBAND, DAUGHTER OR HER BOY FRIEND, THE ONE WHO SHOT THE ELK. I CALLED FISH AND GAME AND A WARDEN CAME TO MY SHOP. I EXPLAINED THE SITUATION TO HIM (AS I RECALL, IT WAS JON DUNN) AND HE PROMISED THAT THE LADY WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCEEDINGS. A SHORT TIME LATER, THE POACHER WAS WALKING DOWN MYRTLE AVENUE AND WAS HIT BY A CAR AND WAS FATALY INJURED. CASE CLOSED. MY POINT IS - THAT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO SET THIS VERY NICE MAN AS A CRIMINAL BY OFFERING HIM A WAD OF MONEY - WHICH HE REFUSED, SAYING IT WAS TOO MUCH, WHY DIDN'T FISH AND GAME GO TO HIM AND EXPLAIN THEIR POSITION AND GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THE RIGHT THING, EVEN THOUGH GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF DOING ANYTHING WRONG. IT

SEEMS LIKE IT TURNED OUT O.K. HE RECEIVED NO MONEY, OR HAD TO PAY NO FINE, BUT THE PELT WILL BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. COMON FISH & GAME- LET'S USE OUR HEADS!! SOME FAMOUS GUY ONCE SAID - "IF YOU DON'T LEARN ANY THING FROM YOUR ~~MISTAKE~~ MISTAKES, YOU SHOULDN'T BE PUT IN A POSITION TO MAKE MORE MISTAKES." OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WELL, IT SEEMS THAT SOME OF THE DECISION MAKERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., HAVE BEEN PROMOTED TO ~~AT~~ THEIR LEVEL OF INCOMPETENCE BY SAYING THEY WANT TO LOWER OUR ARMED FORCES TO PRE-PEARL HARBOR LEVELS. THEY ALSO WANT TO LOWER THE COSTS OF WAGES, HEALTH CARE AND OTHER AMENITIES FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL. I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH CUTTING OUT WASTE - SUCH AS BUILDING EQUIPMENT WE DON'T NEED, OR PAYING OUT RAGEOUS PRICES FOR EQUIPMENT AND PARTS, AND I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYONE OUT THERE WHO HAS THE MEANS OR DESIRE TO GO TO WAR WITH US. HOWEVER - TO CUT BACK TO EXTREMELY LOW LEVELS ON EQUIPMENT AND TO LOWER THE SUPPORT - FINANCIAL - OR MEDICAL, OR OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR US? -

NO WAY!! AS IT IS, AND HAS BEEN FOR YEARS, OUR VETERANS AND PRESENT ^{PERSONNEL} ~~SOLDIERS~~ - MALE AND FEMALE - ARE COMING HOME WITH PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL INJURIES AND MANY ARE NOT BEING PROPERLY CARED FOR. GET WITH IT YOU GUYS UP THERE! IF YOU FEEL LIKE I DO - WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES!

SIGN OFF ...